

CHILDREN'S COUNTRY HOLIDAY FUND.

DEAR MADAM,

At the last meeting of the Nature Study and Recreation Committee a report of the summer's work among the children sent into the country by the Children's Country Holidays Fund was given, and it was decided that some details regarding it should be sent to those who gave such generous help towards making the season so successful.

You will be glad to know that 18 Lantern Lectures to upwards of 3,000 children were given, and that 55 Nature Talks in their schools were arranged for 3,800 others; the same number of Rambles (55) in various open spaces in town or neighbouring country districts were successfully undertaken, and 730 children were by them brought into that actual contact with Nature which is the best source of knowledge.

The committee considered these figures very satisfactory, showing as they do a considerable increase on those of any preceding year.

In July a letter (of which I enclose a copy) was issued to the children who were shortly to leave town for the country, and in September nearly 3,000 replies were received; 150 children made collections of common shells, seaweeds, grasses and leaves, while 230 made sketches from nature or memory.

The judges who kindly undertook the classification of these efforts have found that 241 deserve prizes, 459 certificates of merit, and 1,136 have obtained a memento which the committee regard less as a reward than as an encouragement to try again.

The committee feel that this work of arousing the children's interest in and observation of nature is limited only by the help available: teachers and children welcome the break afforded by the lectures and rambles; and it is

hoped to carry on the Nature Talks and Lantern Lectures during January, February, and March, as well as in the summer months. Offers of assistance in either branch will be most welcome.

In conclusion, to every helper—whether in lecturing or leading rambles, by giving tea to groups of happy children after their walks, or paying for their entertainment where no invitation was received, in judging a standard of the children's letters or drawings, or in bringing our work to the notice of others—to each one the committee wish to convey their cordial thanks for the assistance so willingly given. "He who helps a child helps humanity with an immediateness which no other help given to human creatures in any other stage of human life can possibly give again."

We are,

Yours faithfully,

HENRIETTA O. BARNETT, Chairman,

BEATRICE CHAMBERLAIN, Vice-Chairman,

On behalf of the Nature Study and Recreation Committee,
Children's Country Holidays Fund.

MISS PENNETHORNE.

FLOWERS FOUND AT SHERINGHAM

ON NOVEMBER 21ST AND 22ND, 1907.

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|-----------------------|--------------------------|
| 1 Stork's bill | 13 Daisy |
| 2 Red dead nettle | 14 Scarlet pimpernel |
| 3 Groundsel | 15 Creeping cinquefoil |
| 4 Scentless May-weed | 16 Common hawkbit |
| 5 Common mallow | 17 Crepis virens |
| 6 Harebell | 18 Evening lychnis |
| 7 Nipplewort | 19 Dove's foot geranium |
| 8 Poppy | 20 Blackberry |
| 9 Ragwort | 21 Viper's bugloss |
| 10 Clover (purple) | 22 Thyme-leaved arenaria |
| 11 Hare's foot clover | 23 Shepherd's purse |
| 12 Dyer's rocket | 24 Common cudweed |

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|--------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 25 Hedge mustard | 63 Cleavers |
| 26 Yarrow | 64 Lesser antirrhinum |
| 27 Gorse | 65 Cathartic flax |
| 28 Field madder | 66 Mustard |
| 29 Musk thistle | 67 Rough chervil |
| 30 Dandelion | 68 Lesser trefoil |
| 31 Common sowthistle | 69 Buxbaum speedwell |
| 32 Pansy | 70 Night flowering catchfly |
| 33 Basil thyme | 71 Flixweed |
| 34 Water ragwort | 72 Herb Robert |
| 35 Common chervil | 73 Field scabious |
| 36 Water myosotis | 74 Geranium dissectum |
| 37 Marsh marigold | 75 Common bugloss |
| 38 Persicaria | 76 Good King Henry |
| 39 Sun spurge | 77 Ribwort plantain |
| 40 Dutch clover | 78 Fool's parsley |
| 41 Spear wort | 79 Hairy tare |
| 42 Creeping buttercup | 80 Ivy |
| 43 Meadow buttercup | 81 Spear thistle |
| 44 Mouse ear chickweed | 82 Hogweed |
| 45 Canadian fleabane | 83 Blue fleabane |
| 46 Eyebright | 84 Honeysuckle |
| 47 Black knapweed | 85 Burdock |
| 48 Ragged robin | 86 Wild basil |
| 49 Marsh plume thistle | 87 Hetty spurge |
| 50 Horehound (black) | 88 Hedge parsley |
| 51 Small nettle | 89 Sand rocket |
| 52 Cut-leaved mignonette | 90 Field myosote |
| 53 Centaury | 91 Wood myosote |
| 54 Chickweed | 92 Wood sage |
| 55 Field gentian | 93 Long-stalked geranium |
| 56 Devil's bit scabious | 94 Fumitory |
| 57 Self-heal | 95 Heath (fine leaved) |
| 58 Brookweed | 96 Procumbent speedwell |
| 59 Hoary cinquefoil | 97 Radish |
| 60 Celery | 98 Mouse ear hawkweed |
| 61 Watercress | 99 Field ladies' mantle |
| 62 Thyme | |

BOOKS.

It has always seemed to me one of the most difficult things in the world to recommend a book—if that book happens to be a novel! There are, of course, certain kinds of books that, given the subjects the reader requires to be interested about, one feels safe in recommending. Under this heading we might put books of History, Travel, Biography, &c.; but when we come to Novels, here is a question of Taste, and as we all know, "there is no accounting for tastes!" Personally, I have a predilection—old-fashioned and childish as it is—for the "lived-happy-ever-after" endings of the good old fairy tales, where poetic justice was always done, and the good knight (why was he always the younger brother?) got the lady. Perhaps this is why I do not like so many modern novels, which leave one so often with the impression that Fate is ever busy forcing us poor mortals to make two and two into five! I have lately read a book—not like many modern novels, a mere catalogue of passions and circumstances—but one worthy of the name. It is the story of one Paragot, and Paragot is the book. Paragot the Bohemian, the Knight Errant, the lion caged between the four walls of convention—a sight so pathetic as to make one both laugh and weep—we see him as a human soul, with its faults as well as its greatness.

To me it is a perfectly fascinating book, but lest I spoil it for any who may chance to find it to their taste, I will not say more. Let not such be discouraged from further perusal, as a lady of my acquaintance was, by reading on the second page that Paragot's finger-nails were black! Why this must have been so I do not know. We must accept it as part of Paragot; and Paragot was certainly a gentleman, though a vagabond! The book is called "The Belovèd Vagabond," by W. J. Loche.

X. Y. Z.